



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

A pair of oarsmen work on their timing during a visit to Loch Lomond on Saturday.

Summer lingers at wet haven

By SHANNA McCORD
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LOCH LOMOND — Summer season is winding down at the reservoir sanctuary hidden deep in the redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The Loch Lomond Reservoir — one of the city's drinking water sources, and an ideal place for fishing, spotting an osprey or great blue heron, having a picnic or writing in a journal — will close to the public Sept. 15. The reservoir reopens March 1.

Loch Lomond is a popular place — at least for those who know it's there — for anglers to catch trout, bluegill and bass.

Swimming, wading and gasoline-powered boats are not allowed because the water is primarily used for drinking.

Loch Lomond Park Ranger Josh Laeder said the area can see up to 500 people on a busy weekend.

Laeder said the many hiking trails around Loch Lomond aren't heavily used because not many people know about them.

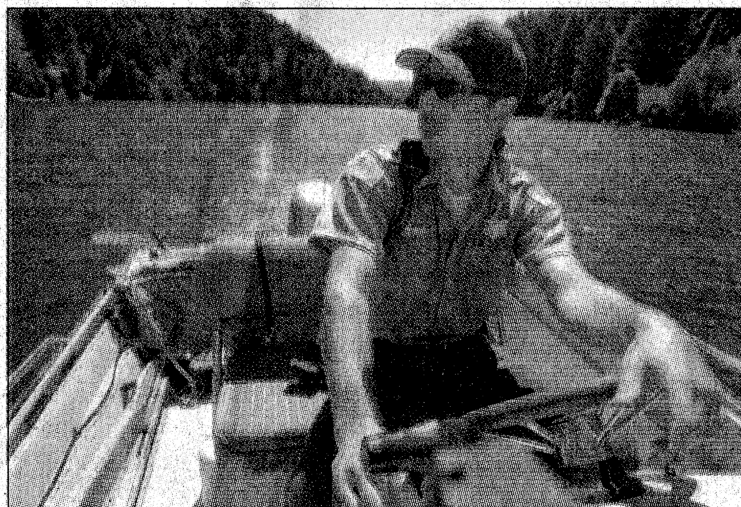
The reservoir is the city's only surface water storage, and water levels have stayed above average so far this year, said Bill Kocher, head of the city Water Department.

Loch Lomond is currently 93 percent full, compared with its typical August level of 81 percent, Kocher said.

The reservoir holds nearly 3 billion gallons of water, he said.

"It's ridiculously high," Kocher said. "We're not using much because we got that late rain."

The city was required to make Loch Lomond a recreation area



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BILL KOCHER,
WATER DEPARTMENT

Jose Laeder, at left, patrols the tranquil Loch Lomond reservoir on Saturday. Below, a resident of the area cruises in the air just above the shoreline.



as part of the deal to build a dam on Newell Creek, which feeds the reservoir.

The city of Santa Cruz bought

the land and developed the reservoir in the late 1950s. The recreation area opened in 1963.

It costs \$4 to drive into the park

and \$1 to bring a dog.

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